THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A roaming subscriber, when going out of his place of registration, is provided with STD facility on request to enable him to make STD calls.

(b) and (c) No. Sir. In fact. Dolphin roaming charges provide roaming facility at most affordable price *vis-a-vis* other operators.

Cut in manpower in Department of Posts and Telegraph

181. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government's directive to every Ministry/ Department to undertake a two per cent cut in manpower every year has been resisted by the Department of Posts and Telegraph;

(b) if so. the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to persuade the Department to fall in line with the other Departments in implementing Government's directive in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The Department of Posts and the Department of Telecommunications have not resisted the directive of the Government for optimization of direct recruitment to civilian posts by restricting overall direct recruitment to one-third of vacancies meant for direct recruitment subject to condition that the total vacancies proposed for filling up should be within the 1% ceiling as conveyed in the Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No. 2/8/2001-PIC. dated 16/5/2001

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.